

not more than moderately curved or twisted.

**§ 51.582 Fairly compact.**

*Fairly compact* means that the branches on the stalk are reasonably close together throughout most of their length.

**§ 51.583 Reasonably well developed.**

*Reasonably well developed* means that the branches are of reasonable width and thickness in relation to the length of midribs and type of celery.

**§ 51.584 Reasonably well formed.**

*Reasonably well formed* means that the branches are not crooked, curved or twisted to the extent that the appearance of the stalk is seriously affected.

**§ 51.585 Fairly well trimmed.**

*Fairly well trimmed* means that the main root has been cut off so that it does not extend more than 3 inches below the point of attachment of the lowest outer branch, and that secondary rootlets are not of such number or length as to seriously affect the appearance of the stalk.

**§ 51.586 Serious damage.**

*Serious damage*, unless otherwise specifically defined in this section, means any defect which seriously affects the appearance, or the edible or shipping quality of the celery stalk or the general appearance of the stalks in the container. Any one of the following defects, or any combination of defects the seriousness of which exceeds the maximum allowed for any one defect, shall be considered as serious damage:

(a) Growth cracks when more than 4 branches are affected by growth cracks which are over one-half inch in length, or when more than 8 branches have growth cracks;

(b) Horizontal cracks when more than 5 branches have horizontal cracks which are over one-half inch in length, or when more than 8 branches have horizontal cracks;

(c) Pithy branches when more than 4 are pithy in that portion of the midrib between a point 1½ inches above the point of attachment to the base and the first node, or between a point 1½

inches below the first node and the point of attachment to the base, or when pith occurs at both ends of the midrib and more than a total of 1½ inches is affected: *Provided*, That stalks having 6 outer branches or less shall have not more than one-half of the outer branches affected by pith as described above;

(d) Seedstems when the length of seedstem exceeds 3 times the diameter of the stalk (see §§ 51.587 and 51.588);

(e) Dirt when dirt is badly caked on the stalk;

(f) Doubles when the inner branches are not fairly well protected;

(g) Disease: (1) Brown stem, cracked stem and crater blotch when seriously affecting more than 4 branches, or when the aggregate area exceeds 1 square inch on the branches; and,

(2) Discoloration when each of more than 5 branches or ½ of the branches of the stalk, whichever is less, has more than 3 distinct hair-like lines more than 3 inches long occurring on the outer side of the branch or an aggregate area of more than ¼ by 1 inch of blotch or solid type discoloration occurring on the inner side;

(h) Insects when worms are present, or when insect injury affects the midrib portion of more than 4 branches, or when injury on other portions seriously affects the appearance of the stalk; and,

(i) Mechanical injury when the root has been cut off too closely leaving the branches without support; when more than 4 branches are materially scuffed or bruised; when the branches have been broken above the first node to an extent which seriously affects the appearance; or when more than 4 branches are broken below the first node except all branches may be cut below the first node provided the stalk is of the length specified.

**§ 51.587 Diameter.**

*Diameter* means the greatest dimension of the stalk measured at a point 2 inches above the point of attachment of the lowest outer branch to the base.

**§ 51.588 Length of seedstem.**

*Length of seedstem* means the distance from the base of the outer branches of the stalk to the top of the actual

seedstem, exclusive of any leaves or leafstems attached to the top of the seedstem.

### Subpart—United States Consumer Standards for Celery Stalks

SOURCE: 18 FR 7089, Nov. 11, 1953, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 42 FR 32514, June 27, 1977, and further redesignated at 46 FR 63203, Dec. 31, 1981.

#### GENERAL

##### § 51.595 General.

These standards do not apply to celery hearts.

#### GRADES

##### § 51.596 U.S. Grade AA.

U.S. Grade AA shall consist of stalks of celery of similar varietal characteristics, which are well developed, and have good heart formation; which are clean, well trimmed, fairly compact, and are free from blackheart, brown stem, decay (except dry type crater rot), doubles, and from damage caused by crater rot, wilting, cutworms, freezing, suckers, growth cracks, hollow crown, pithy branches, seedstems, rust, cracked stem, other diseases, insects or mechanical or other means.

(a) The average midrib length of the outer whorl of branches on stalks in this grade shall be not less than 7 inches. (See §§ 51.599 and 51.600.)

(b) Incident to proper grading and handling other than for average midrib length of branches not more than 5 percent, by count, of the stalks in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of the grade including not more than 1 percent for stalks affected by moist type decay. In addition, not more than 3 percent, by count, of the stalks in any lot may fail to meet the requirements as to average midrib length of the stalks.

##### § 51.597 U.S. Grade A.

U.S. Grade A shall consist of stalks of celery of similar varietal characteristics which are fairly well developed and have fairly good heart formation; which are clean, well trimmed, and not badly spread, and which are free from blackheart, decay (except dry type cra-

ter rot), doubles, and from damage caused by crater rot, brown stem, wilting, cutworms, freezing, suckers, growth cracks, hollow crown, pithy branches, seedstems, rust, cracked stem, other diseases, insects, or mechanical or other means.

(a) The average midrib length of the outer whorl of branches on stalks in this grade shall be not less than 5 inches. (See §§ 51.599 and 51.600.)

(b) Incident to proper grading and handling other than for average midrib length of branches, not more than 5 percent, by count, of the stalks in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of the grade including not more than 1 percent for stalks affected by moist type decay. In addition, not more than 3 percent, by count, of the stalks in any lot may fail to meet the requirements as to average midrib length of the stalks.

##### § 51.598 U.S. Grade B.

U.S. Grade B shall consist of stalks of celery of similar varietal characteristics which are fairly well developed, which are clean, well trimmed and free from blackheart, decay (except dry type crater rot), doubles, and from serious damage caused by crater rot, brown stem, wilting, cutworms, freezing, suckers, growth cracks, hollow crown, pithy branches, seedstems, rust, cracked stem, other diseases, insects, or mechanical or other means.

(a) The average midrib length of the outer whorl of branches on stalks in this grade shall be not less than 4 inches. (See §§ 51.599 and 51.600.)

(b) Incident to proper grading and handling other than for average midrib length of branches, not more than 5 percent, by count, of the stalks in any lot may fail to meet the requirements of this grade including not more than 1 percent for stalks affected by moist type decay. In addition not more than 3 percent, by count, of the stalks in any lot may fail to meet the requirements as to average midrib length of the stalks.

#### BLANCHING; LENGTH OF STALKS

##### § 51.599 Blanching.

There are no requirements in the grades as to blanching. However, celery